

Ags look to quiet Run-and-Shoot No. 8 Houston, Ware visit Kyle Field Saturday

By Clay Rasmussen
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M has faced some of the best quarterbacks in the country this year — Louisiana State's Tommy Hodson, Washington's Gary Conklin and Southern Mississippi's Bret Favre.

But A&M has yet to see the likes of Houston's Andre Ware.

The Aggies get their shot at cooling Ware's red-hot arm and the Cougar's Run-and-Shoot scoring machine on Saturday.

A&M Coach R.C. Slocum said it probably won't be pretty.

"We have a team coming in here that's one of the absolute best teams in the country," Slocum said.

"Offensively, they look to be as good as any offensive team I've seen in a long time, and maybe as explosive as any team I've ever seen. You turn around and defensively they look to be the same way.

"They can run, they've got size and they're playing with great confidence and recklessness."

The Aggies are coming off a disappointing, last-minute loss to Texas Tech last week.

"Those kind of losses linger," Slocum said. "They take a lot out of you, but we just have to try and get ready for our next game."

And getting ready for the next game is a particularly difficult task when you must shut down one of the highest scoring teams in the country.

The Cougars lead the nation in scoring offense, averaging 59 points a game while limiting their opponents to an average six points per game. They have shattered record after record in the Southwest Conference.

At one point in the season, UH said the possibility of gaining over 1,000 yards in a single game was a real one.

Ware broke former A&M star Kevin Murray's record for most career touchdowns thrown with 49. Ware and the Cougars lead all other offenses in the nation, averaging 647 total yards per game.

He holds the SWC record (7) for most touchdown passes in a game,

against Temple earlier this year. Ware has passed for over 400 yards in five separate games. With the season only half over, he is sure to set more records.

Houston at Texas A&M

- Site: Kyle Field (72,387 cap.)
- Kickoff: 2 p.m.
- Ranking: A&M (—), Houston (8th)
- TV/Radio: HSE (Ch. 25) tape delay at 10:30 p.m.; KTAM (AM 1240)

But A&M is not without its own talent at quarterback. Junior Lance Pavlas set a school record last week against Tech, completing 11 consecutive passes. He also set a career high in passing yardage, throwing for 202 yards on 28 attempts.

Pavlas has a 61 percent pass completion average this year and ranks No. 3 in career completions at A&M.

At his current pace, Pavlas will challenge Murray's single season record of 60.8 percent.

To be able to contend with the Cougars, Slocum and the Aggies need to do one thing: Shut down Ware.

"He is, without a doubt, the key," Slocum said. "You plug another guy in that offense at quarterback and it's not the same show."

The Aggies had success last year in limiting Ware by using one down lineman, four linebackers and six defensive backs to cover the Run-and-Shoot.

This year, though, the Aggies are both thin and inexperienced at the linebacker position.

"That hurts us some this year," Slocum said. "(Chicago Bears' John) Roper is gone and we've had all kinds of injuries at the linebacker position. We're young and thin.

"Last year the linebackers were the strength of our team. We're not in the same boat this year."

The defense, though, is looking forward to the challenge of covering

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Cowboys get players and picks for Walker

IRVING (AP) — Dallas running back Herschel Walker has been traded to the Minnesota Vikings and moved his belongings out of the Cowboys suburban headquarters Thursday.

"I'm outta here but I've got a lot of good memories," Walker told Cowboys assistant equipment manager Jerry Fowler as he cleaned out his locker at Valley Ranch before dawn.

Walker then boarded a plane for Minneapolis with his agent.

"He's accepted the deal to play for Minnesota," said Lee Martin, producer of Walker's Dallas TV show. "From what Herschel told me, it's not so much that he wants to go to Minnesota, he just feels that he wasn't wanted here."

Vikings general manager Mike Lynn visited Walker's home Wednesday to try to convince him to join Minnesota. The Vikings and the Cowboys had agreed to a package this week for Walker, who had spent several days trying to make up his mind on the matter.

In Minneapolis, Lynn would

not confirm the trade.

When told he has a running back in Walker, Lynn said, "We do? Can you wait a second. You're speculating. You're speculating. The deal is not done until we announce it. I've got no comment. If the Cowboys have made an announcement, that's one thing. Before you run off on a limb, get your facts straight."

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and coach Jimmy Johnson, who took over the team in February and have struggled to an 0-5 start, had no immediate comment.

But Fowler said Walker told him, "I'll never forget my years in Dallas. I loved Dallas and I intend to keep my home here, but it's time to move on."

Walker told Fowler that he will play against the Green Bay Packers, the Vikings' opponent, on Sunday. Ironically, Walker just played against the Packers for the Cowboys last Sunday.

Martin wasn't as sure.

"I haven't seen Herschel/Page 11

Jones, Johnson finally got one right: Herschel deal is no lemon

Jimmy Johnson and Jerry Jones should be in the used car business.

With one stroke, Jones and Johnson may have saved the Dallas Cowboys from a winless season.

The Double-J braintrust, who fired Tom Landry and drafted two quarterbacks during the offseason, traded Herschel Walker to Minnesota on Thursday.

I can hear the groans, but take heart football fans: Jerry got this one right. Hey, give the man credit, the law of averages finally caught up with him.

The Pokes had, in their infinite wisdom, decided to give Walker a tiny role in the offense (or lack thereof) this season.

As a result, he has gained only 246 yards this year, and Dallas is 0-5.

What a concept, using a man who had over 2,000 total yards last year as a decoy.

Brought to you by the same organization, who made two rookie quarterbacks millionaires in the same offseason.

I guess the braintrust thought they could



Alan Lehmann
Sports Writer

swap Walsh for a defense, or at least some nifty draft picks.

Can't you just hear the conversation:

"Hey, J.J., let's draft this one, too."

"Another one? They're pretty expensive."

You think we can put them both on the field at the same time?"

"Of course not."

"For that much moolah, we'd better make use of both of them."

"Hey, I know what we can do. We need a defense, so we'll just trade our extra quarterback for a team."

"You think anybody wants him that bad?"

"Sure, he's a first-round draft choice."

Obviously the other owners in the league were afraid of dealing with such shrewd operators.

Who wants to be fleeced by a man from Arkansas?

So, the Pokes were stuck with too much talent at QB, and none anywhere else.

Luckily for the Plowboys, QB #1 was injured at just the right time to make use of QB #2.

Whew, that was a close one.

"We still don't have a defense, J.J., and nobody seems to want our spare QB."

"Who can we swap for some defense?"

"There's somebody...I can't think of his name...Big guy, ran the ball a lot last

year...It's right on the tip of my tongue...help me J.J., you know who I mean."

"Darryl Clack?"

"No, he played more than that."

"Oh, you mean Herschel?"

"Yeah, that's him. Is he still with us?"

"I think so...Yeah, he is. I saw him at practice last week."

"Good. I wonder how he feels about playing in that God-forsaken wasteland up north."

"You mean Oklahoma?"

"No, further north."

So, they paid Walker's salary, and shipped him out of town.

Sometimes a lot of luck and a half-dozen wrongs do make a right. Defying all logic, the double-J gang got a defense in exchange for their most valuable player.

In the trade, Dallas received five players and several draft picks over the next three years.

The Vikings gave up linebackers Jesse

Solomon and David Howard, cornerback Issiac Holt, defensive end Alex Stewart and running back Darrin Nelson.

Don't be fooled. The Pokes will miss Walker.

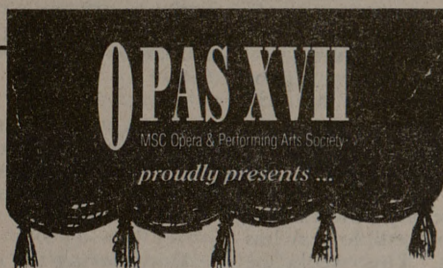
Their pass-oriented offense hasn't been very successful even though defenses have been keying on him.

With Walker gone, Nelson will have to establish a running game, or defenses will be able to blitz every play.

Solomon, Stewart, Howard and Holt should provide instant defense for the Pokes, who've had trouble stopping some of the league's more mediocre offenses this year.

If they can slow opponents on the ground, and provide a decent pass rush, the SlowPokes might win a couple this season.

In the meantime, be careful who you buy a new car from.



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